

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

A true Relation of the great losses
which happened by the lamentable accident of fire
in the Citie of *Paris*, the 24. day of October last
past, 1621. which burnt downe the Mer-
chants Bridge, the Changers Bridge, and
diuers houses neere vnto them.

Together with the Speedy diligence
viced by the Duke DE MONBASON,
Gouernour of the said Towne, for the
quenching thereof.

Also a Decree made in the Court of Parlia-
ment in PARIS, whereby an Order is taken for pro-
uiding for the Merchants that haue lost their goods
by the sayd Fire, and to prevent the like mis-
chance in time to come.

Translated according to the French Copie,
printed at PARIS.



LONDON,

Printed for R. R. at the *Golden Lyon in Pauls*
Churchyard, 1621.



NEWES FROM FRANCE.



OD, whose goodnesse and clemencie is incomprehensible, to our humane thoughts and imaginations, doth not alwayes discharge the arrowes of his wrath vpon miserable sinners; who by the innumerablenesse of their offences, haue stirred vp and prouoked his wrath against them, because he desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should conuert and be saued: But when he seeth that they waxe worse, and are hardened in their finnes, and lull themselues asleepe in humane delights: Then he rouzeth vp himselfe with the scourge of aduersitie, and dischargeth the furie of his wrath against them, to make them turne vnto him, who is the Soueraigne Ruler, of whome they hold their being, and all their power. Then (I say) he employeth the great forces of the heauens,

Newes from France.

and the Elements, thereby to heale the vicer of their vices, that wallow and take pleasure in sinne, as a Sow delighteth to wallow in the mire.

Which plainly appeareth by the deplorable accident happened of late in the Citie of *Paris*, where the force and furie of fire stricke such an astonishment in all the inhabitants, that they thought the Towne, like a second *Sodome*, would suddenly haue beene consumed to ashes, by the impetuous flames of fire that threatned them; and yet could not truly know the truth how it began: For it is so diuersly reported, that men cannot assuredly declare any truth thereof: And it is prohibited by a Decree made in Court of Parliament, in any sort to speake thereof, to shunne and auoid the tumult and commotion of the people. But so it is, that vpon Saturday the 23. of October, about one of the clocke after midnight, the fire began in such manner to flame out vpon the Merchants Bridge, that the inhabitants thereof were surprized sleeping in their beds, before they heard or perceiued it: for the fire (which met with nothing else but that which was combustible) increased with such
impetu-

Newes from France.

impetuositie, that in a short time, all the houses that stood vpon the said Bridge on both sides, were on fire, by meanes of certaine beames that lay crosse ouer one to another.

The Change Bridge did no lesse feele the force and vigour which the said fire vomited out, by meanes of the flames issuing from the same: for that descending downe to the foundations thereof, in the end it burnt and cast it into the water, with all the houses standing thereon, together with the great riches of the inhabitants, that by no meanes could saue any thing thereof, by reason of the smoake and heate, that hurt and choked diuers of the people, and some men that were burnt, fell down with the beames and peeces of wood all burning into the riuer.

You may iudge how many children and poore innocent soules were buried in that impiteous fire, for that their fathers and mothers had worke enough to doe, to saue themselves. Many women newly brought in bed, and others that were sicke in their beds, payd that debt to nature, which all of vs one day must doe, neither hauing that force nor dexteritie sufficient to saue themselves. It was most la-

Newes from France.

mentable to heare the wofull cries and sighings, not onely of those that were afflicted, but also of the spectators of that miserable accident: The men in great feare saued themselves from that vnexpected deluge, in a manner halfe dead, blaming the heauens for their disaster, and not knowing how to bee reuenged for their losse, tooke reuenge vpon themselves; and men were as much troubled to comfort them, as to saue the rest of those that were within their houses. Women in extreme discomfort, their haire hanging about their heades, and in a manner naked, beholding that horrible spectacle, bathing their faces with teares, and casting a thousand sighes vp into the ayre, swounded, and in a manner fell into despaire. Diuers seruants, both maides and men, as well as their masters and mistresses, induring and feeling the rigor of that mischance, stood in the like manner as others did, ready to pay their debt to cruell destiny.

The fire still waxing greater and greater, mounted vp into the ayre with mighty flames, and cast such and so great a light ouer all the Citie, that those which knew nothing of that vnfortunate mischance, being awaked
by

Newes from France.

by the popular rumour, were in a maze, to imagine from whence that light should come, not knowing the cause; but as others did, in great feare ranne vnto the place.

The Bels in diuers Churches began to ring, the noyse whereof astonishing diuers Citizens of the sayd Towne, caused them to arme themselves: at which time *Paris* began to enter into a great tumult. When the Duke *de Monbason*, Governour of the City, hauing intelligence thereof, came vnto the place with his Company of souldiers, the Watch, and diuers others; all in Armes, placing a Court of guard at both ends of the Bridges, and other places. From thence he went to possesse the strongest and most eminent places, as the *Bastille*, the Kings Court called the *Louure*, the Towne-house, and diuers places of note; which done, he caused fires to be made thoroughout all the Citie, and Lanternes to be hung out of euery window, in so great quantity, that it was as light as at noone-day: and caused foure Culuerins to be brought to both the ends of the said Bridges: and to conclude, vsed such diligence in that imminent danger, still keeping good watch, doubting some treason,

News from France.

treason, that he is perpetually to be commended for the same.

In the meane time, while he was thus providently busied about that publike care, so necessary in such an extremitie: The fire, that like a tempest, deuoured and spoyled all that it tooke hold on, was not content with that whereon it had first seized, but hauing satisfied the greedie desire thereof, and brought all the houses and dwelling places vpon the sayd two Bridges, into vtter ruine and desolation, and layd them in the valley of miserie, encreased more and more, and carried her flames into the Calue place; and if it had not beene for some artificiall trenches, and mens helpe, who in great numbers ranne thither, the great Castle, and the gate of *Paris*, was in danger to haue felt the furie thereof. On the other side, in the extremitie of the raging flames, at the other end of the Bridges aforesaid, the fire was no lesse furious: for hauing seized vpon all the houses and shops neere vnto it, as farre as before the Pallace, it tooke hold on the Dyall, and beganne to melt the Lead that couered it, vntill a great number of nimble and couragious men, ran thither, and employ-

Newes from France.

employed all their forces and iudustries, to saue that admirable worke.

The Duke *de Monbason*, while euery man was busied about that pitifull and most lamentable busines, on Sunday in the morning, caused commandement to bee made by sound of Trumpet, that all the Citizens should fill and set diuers tubs full of water at all the corners of the streetes. And it is an incredible thing to report, how great a number of people from all places ranne vnto that place, to satisfie themselves with the sight of that horrible fire, which filled their eyes with teares, and their brests with sighes.

This (friendly Reader) in briebe is the true relation that I can make vnto thee, to let thee know and vnderstand this lamentable action: from whence the same proceeded no man knowes. Neuerthelesse, the Court, by a Decree made the 25. day of Octob. hath commanded all Iudges and Officers to make an exact enquire of those, that wickedly haue committed that disorder; and that the knowledgethereof being had, so good Iustice may be vsed therein, that such as they may take example thereby.

A Decree made by the Court of Parliament in P A R I S, whereby Order is taken for providing for the Merchants, that haue lost their goods by the said fire, and to prevent the like mischance in time to come.

VPon the Declaration made by the Kings Atturney General, touching the fire happened by night, betweene Saturday and Sunday, the 24. of this moneth of October, which burnt and consumed the Changers and the Merchants Bridges, and some houles neere vnto them, as well on the Palace side, vnto the Leather street, as on the great Castle side, requiring, That the Court would be pleased, to giue him Commission to make information of the beginning of that fire, considering the diuers reports that were spred abroad in the Towne, that might bee a meanes to procure great trouble in the same, and to make speedie prouision for the necessitie of those, that haue lost their goods by the said Fire, as also that the like inconuenience may not happen. After the Lieutenant ciuill, and the substitute of the sayd Attur.

Newes from France.

Attorney generall had audience, being for that cause sent for, vpon information that they had begunne to make inquirie thereof.

The Court hath enioyned and enioyneth the Prouost of *Paris*, or his Lieutenants ciuill or criminall, diligently to continue the information by them begun, touching the originall of that Fire, and to make and finish the inditement of the authours of the same, and their adherents, ready for the definitiue sentence, notwithstanding any oppositions, or appeales whatsoeuer: and to the Substitute of the sayd Attorney generall to be assistant vnto them, and with all diligence to certifie this Court thereof. And withall, expressely command and prohibite (vpon paine of death) all persons, of what qualities or conditions soeuer they be, to assemble together either by day or by night, vnlesse it bee by commandement of the Magistrate, nor yet to mis-behaue themselves by words, nor to vse any reproches, vnder pretence of diuersitie of Religions, or to sow or cast foorth any bruits or rumours touching the inconuenience of the sayd Fire, tending to the disquietnesse of the Citie; but to liue peaceably and quietly, vnder the Kings Authority and Edicts. Commanding

Newes from France.

all vagrant persons, and men that are of lewde conuerſation, liuing idly, preſently, without any delay, to depart out of the Citie, after the publication of theſe preſents: And their Oaſts, and ſuch as harbour them, to diſcloſe them, vpon paine perſonally to anſwere for them: And to provide for the neceſſitie and reliefe of the poore inhabitants, vtterly vndone and beggered by the ſayd Fire: Humble ſupplication ſhall be made vnto the King, to be pleaſed to beſtow His gracious liberalitie vpon them. And in the meane time it is ordeined, That the ſaid Atturney generall ſhall make a note of the names of thoſe, that haue endured the ſaid loſſes; and what trades and occupations they were of, as alſo of the number of their children and families, who may be put into Saint *Louis* Houſe, there to be lodged and nourished for the ſpace of ſixe moneths: and to that end, there ſhall be ten thouſand Frankes put into the hands of *Perrot* and *Sainctot*, Ouerſeers of the Hoſpitall. And further, that gatherings ſhall be made throughout all the Pariſhes of this Citie, to ayde the ſaid diſtreſſed people. And to that end, the people ſhall be exhorted by the Vicars: and Officers of the ſayd Pariſhes, to appoint certaine perſons of
good

Newes from France.

good qualitie, from month to month, to make the sayd Gatherings. Commanding the Prouost of Merchants and Sheriffes, to set men on worke continually, to take vp, and rid away the ruines of the said Fire fallen into the water, that the course of the same may not be hindred, and to make it nauigable: and in the meane time, to appoint honest men of good credit, and well experienced, for the space of a whole yeere, to search in the bottome of the water, for the goods and merchandizes, that shall be found to haue beene drowned; and the same to bee brought into the common Hospitall of the said Citie; whereof an Inuentorie shall bee made by one of the sayd Sheriffes, that they may bee restored to the owners thereof. And also that all Boatmen, and such as vse to saile vp and downe the riuer; and all others, that shall haue found any thing of the same, to bring them to the said Hospitall of the Towne, and to bring a certificate thereof, vpon paine of hanging. We likewise command the Prouost of Merchants, and the Sheriffes, to keepe and hold within the sayd Hospitall of the Towne, and the Towne-house, as also in euery Ward, such a quantity of hooks,

Newes from France.

buckets of lether, and other such necessaries as shall be needfull in time to come, to serue for such inconueniences of Fire, and to certifie the same vnto the Clerke of the said Court. And the Captaine of the Watch, to keepe good watch by night in the Palace, and other vsuall places. And to the end, in time to come, that the danger of Fire may not take in the Palace, by reason of the shoppes that are built vp against the same, We ordeine and command, that the new shops built from the Dyall Tower, to the bailiage Gate, on the Quay-side of the riuer, shall be pulled downe; and none of them to be built vp againe for any cause or reason whatsoeuer. And further, that all Processes sued out against the bodies of those that dwelt vpon the sayd Bridges, by reason of any Obligations, Iudgements, or Arrests, in what manner soeuer they be done, shall surcease for the space of a yeere: and that by the ordinarie Iudges there shall bee sufficient delay made, considering their losse; and whatsoeuer shall by them bee ordeined, to be put in execution; notwithstanding any oppositions or appeales whatsoeuer. And this present Decree shall, by the diligence of the Atturney

Newes from France.

ney generall, bee published, as well in the
Church Porches, as openly by sound of Trum-
pet, and set vp vpon the corners of the streetes.

Giuen in the Parliament the 26. of October.

1621.

Signed Du Tillet.



Notes from France
they General, has published, as well in the
Church Papers as orally by word of mouth
and lastly upon the count of the French
Gives in the 12th month the 2d of October

1821

Signed Du Tillot



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